

# OSU won't ban CIA recruiters, MacVicar says

By George Wisner  
Of The Gazette-Times

Despite opposition from some students, Oregon State University President Robert MacVicar refused Tuesday to prohibit the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency from recruiting for employees on campus.

"We are not responsible for management of the CIA; Congress is," MacVicar told seven representatives of a campus group called the Liberation Support Coalition.

The seven had given him petitions signed by about 200 students and non-students who want a ban on "all future CIA recruitment and activities on the Oregon State University campus." The coalition says it supports national liberation struggles throughout the world.

The petitions were circulated around the campus on two occasions, coalition members said, primarily during and after the CIA recruiting visit to OSU on Feb. 7. The coalition, which has approximately 40 members, also demonstrated against the CIA in front of the campus Memorial Union on Feb. 7.

In presenting the petitions to MacVicar, William Palmer, a graduate student, said:

"We think it is inappropriate for the CIA to be recruiting on campus. It seems they get enough people volunteering without recruiting. We think it would be best to keep that kind of politics off campus."

MacVicar responded by saying, "As far as I'm concerned . . . the CIA is a legitimate government organization.

"I respect your feelings and concern about some of the activities of that organization. But I am not about to deny access to university facilities for student appraisal of (job) opportunities in that agency. I have no basis for denying it the

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MacVicar



use of the facilities."

MacVicar said he is "opposed to law-breaking in principle and in practice" and if any organization was illegal or prohibited by law, then he would have a basis for refusing to allow it on campus.

Coalition members then suggested that by not banning the CIA from using campus facilities, MacVicar supports what the coalition believes to be subversive activities of the CIA.

"How can you support an agency that sits consistently outside the laws?" asked Natja Adolf, a sophomore, who suggested that MacVicar could provide "moral leadership" by banning the CIA.

MacVicar wagged a finger, cautioning: "You're making an assumption. I don't believe that allowing an agency to come to campus means that we support their practices."

He added, "I don't believe in smoking, but I'm not about to say that the American Tobacco Co. can't recruit on campus."

MacVicar told the group that its members acted correctly in raising the issue by petition, but said: "You have got the wrong target. I don't run the CIA."

MacVicar told the students he would reply to their petition in writing, and urged them to talk to federal government "leaders" about CIA activities with which they disagree.

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Gazette-Times Photo by John Bragg

Members of the Liberation Support Coalition, which supports national liberation struggles throughout the world, pass out literature at Oregon State University Thursday protesting job recruiting on campus by the Central Intelligence Agency. The literature said, "No job in the CIA is just a job. If you work for the CIA in any capacity, you cast your lot with one of the most reprehensible agents of U.S. political and corporate power." About a dozen students interviewed for CIA jobs that ranged in yearly pay from \$13,014 to \$32,442, according to officials in the campus careers planning and placement office at OSU.